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Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing
Air Training Corps

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Date: 18/11/2010

PRESS RELEASE

Civilian Instructor brings record numbers to Air Cadet Squadron

Civilian Instructor (CI) Dave Robinson was put in charge of recruitment at 207 (Cranfield) Sqn ATC earlier on in the year and as a result of his hard work, the Squadron has been seeing steadily increasing numbers: as explained by Flying Officer Matt Dolton, the adjutant at 207 Sqn: *“As is the norm for any group, we have witnessed fluctuating numbers of cadets during the 14 years I have been involved. Perhaps it’s the changing attitudes of youth or the economic climate or simply the fact that we are a small village with a limited catchment area compared to Squadrons situated in towns but the Squadron has never been as strong as it was when I joined back in 1997. Until recently, that is. The hard work of CI Robinson and his recruitment team, both on and off the Squadron, has paid dividends and over recent months, the Squadron has grown to a strength of 36 regularly attending cadets. This is all well and good, but nothing could have prepared us for the latest arrivals...”*

Over the last few weeks, CI Robinson and his recruitment team continued about their work giving short presentations at schools in the area, inviting interested students to an open evening to be held at the Squadron’s HQ in Cranfield on the 11th November. Given past experiences, it was expected that maybe 20 to 30 would come along and of those, up to 10 may join. The Squadron readied itself, setting up several activities around the grounds and preparing further presentations and talks for the students and parents.

As the start time approached, one by one the potential cadets arrived and soon one thing was becoming clear: the school visits had been a success. In fact, that’s something of an understatement- they had been a phenomenal success!

Over 60 new recruits turned up for the evening, each requesting a registration pack.

The Squadron staff and cadets could not believe the response as over the next week, a large number of these potential new recruits returned with completed paperwork, ready to start their journey as Air Cadets. The immediate result has increased this normally small village Squadron’s numbers to a record 50+ cadets, with several new cadets handing in paperwork with each passing parade evening, and a handful expected to return in the next few months as they reach the required joining age.

The mastermind behind this success, CI Dave Robinson, said: *“Recruitment is a very emotive subject with most youth organisations; I am very passionate and enthusiastic about the Air Cadets as it provides an amazing amount of opportunities for the youth of today. I am a firm believer you get out what you put in and it was a team effort with the whole recruitment team working long hours and coming up with what is a great formula, more recruitment sessions are planned and it is our intention to attain and maintain 60 cadets by April 2011 making 207 a force to be reckoned with.”* 207 Squadron are always recruiting new cadets from the age of 13 to 18. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Squadron on 01234 752030, take a look at their website at www.aircadets.org or www.207atc.org.uk or call in at their Headquarters off Merchants Lane, Cranfield between the times of 7:30pm and 9:30pm on a Monday or Thursday evening.

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Note to Editor

- There is no photograph available from this event.



Squadron HQ, Off Merchants Lane, Cranfield, Beds MK43 0AD

Charity Exemption T54/95

